

## Calendar No. 285

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**S. 705****[Report No. 109–178]**

To establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service  
Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5, 2005

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. REED, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr.  
SCHUMER, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. JOHN-  
SON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to  
the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Reported by Mr. SHELBY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]**A BILL**

To establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing  
and Service Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Meeting the Housing  
5       and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The senior population (persons 65 or older)  
4 in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected  
5 to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly  
6 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically in-  
7 crease to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

8 (2) By 2020, the population of “older” seniors,  
9 those over age 85, is expected to double to  
10 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by  
11 2040.

12 (3) As the senior population increases, so does  
13 the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and  
14 suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

15 (4) Due to the health care, transportation, and  
16 service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable  
17 and affordable housing opportunities differ signifi-  
18 cantly from the housing needs of other families.

19 (5) Seniors need access to a wide array of hous-  
20 ing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-  
21 home care, supportive or service-enriched housing,  
22 and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow sen-  
23 iors to age in place and to avoid premature place-  
24 ment in institutional settings.

25 (6) While there are many programs in place to  
26 assist seniors in finding and affording suitable hous-

1       ing and accessing needed services, these programs  
 2       are fragmented and spread across many agencies,  
 3       making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or  
 4       to receive comprehensive information.

5           (7) Better coordination among Federal agencies  
 6       is needed, as is better coordination at State and  
 7       local levels, to ensure that seniors can access govern-  
 8       ment activities, programs, services, and benefits in  
 9       an effective and efficient manner.

10          (8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statis-  
 11       tics on key characteristics of seniors, including con-  
 12       ditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accu-  
 13       rately identify the housing and service needs of sen-  
 14       iors.

### 15   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS..**

16       In this Act:

17           (1) The term “housing” means any form of res-  
 18       idence, including rental housing, homeownership, as-  
 19       sisted living, group home, supportive housing ar-  
 20       rangement, nursing facility, or any other physical lo-  
 21       cation where a person can live.

22           (2) The term “service” includes transportation,  
 23       health care, nursing assistance, meal, personal care  
 24       and chore services, assistance with daily activities,  
 25       mental health care, physical therapy, case manage-

1       ment, and any other services needed by seniors to  
 2       allow them to stay in their housing or find alter-  
 3       native housing that meets their needs.

4           (3) The term “program” includes any Federal  
 5       or State program providing income support, health  
 6       benefits or other benefits to seniors, housing assist-  
 7       ance, mortgages, mortgage or loan insurance or  
 8       guarantees, housing counseling, supportive services,  
 9       assistance with daily activities, or other assistance  
 10      for seniors.

11          (4) The term “Council” means the Interagency  
 12      Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs  
 13      of Seniors.

14          (5) The term “senior” means any individual 65  
 15      years of age or older.

16   **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUS-**  
 17           **ING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.**

18      (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the ex-  
 19      ecutive branch an independent council to be known as the  
 20      Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service  
 21      Needs of Seniors.

22      (b) **OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the Council are  
 23      as follows:

24          (1) To promote coordination and collaboration  
 25      among the Federal departments and agencies in-

1       volved with housing, health care, and service needs  
2       of seniors in order to better meet the needs of senior  
3       citizens.

4           (2) To identify the unique housing and service  
5       needs faced by seniors around the country and to  
6       recommend ways that the Federal Government,  
7       States, State and local governments, and others can  
8       better meet those needs, including how to ensure  
9       that seniors can find and afford housing that allows  
10      them to access health care, transportation, nursing  
11      assistance, and assistance with daily activities where  
12      they live or in their communities.

13          (3) To facilitate the aging in place of seniors,  
14      by identifying and making available the programs  
15      and services necessary to enable seniors to remain in  
16      their homes as they age.

17          (4) To improve coordination among the housing  
18      and service related programs and services of Federal  
19      agencies for seniors and to make recommendations  
20      about needed changes with an emphasis on—

21           (A) maximizing the impact of existing pro-  
22      grams and services;

23           (B) reducing or eliminating areas of over-  
24      lap and duplication in the provision and accessi-  
25      bility of such programs and services; and

1           (C) making access to programs and serv-  
2           ices easier for seniors around the country.

3           (5) To increase the efficiency and effectiveness  
4           of existing housing and service related programs and  
5           services which serve seniors.

6           (6) To establish an ongoing system of coordina-  
7           tion among and within such agencies or organiza-  
8           tions so that the housing and service needs of sen-  
9           iors are met in a more efficient manner.

10          (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of  
11          the following:

12               (1) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
13               opment or a designee of the Secretary.

14               (2) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
15               ices or a designee of the Secretary.

16               (3) The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee  
17               of the Secretary.

18               (4) The Secretary of Transportation or a des-  
19               ignee of the Secretary.

20               (5) The Secretary of Labor or a designee of the  
21               Secretary.

22               (6) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a des-  
23               ignee of the Secretary.

24               (7) The Secretary of the Treasury or a designee  
25               of the Secretary.

1           (8) The Commissioner of the Social Security  
2       Administration or a designee of the Commissioner.

3           (9) The Administrator of the Centers for Medi-  
4       care and Medicaid Services or a designee of the Ad-  
5       ministrator.

6           (10) The Administrator of the Administration  
7       on Aging or a designee of the Administrator.

8           (11) The head (or designee) of any other Fed-  
9       eral agency as the Council considers appropriate.

10          (12) State and local representatives knowledge-  
11       able about the needs of seniors as chosen by the  
12       Council members described in paragraphs (1)  
13       through (11).

14       (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council  
15       shall alternate between the Secretary of Housing and  
16       Urban Development and the Secretary of Health and  
17       Human Services on an annual basis.

18       (e) VICE CHAIR.—Each year, the Council shall elect  
19       a Vice Chair from among its members.

20       (f) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call  
21       of its Chairperson or a majority of its members at any  
22       time, and no less often than quarterly. The Council shall  
23       hold meetings with stakeholders and other interested par-  
24       ties at least twice a year, so that the opinions of such par-

1 ties can be taken into account and so that outside groups  
 2 can learn of the Council's activities and plans.

3 **SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

4 (a) **RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out its ob-  
 5 jectives, the Council shall—

6 (1) review all Federal programs and services  
 7 that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabili-  
 8 tating housing, including those that assist seniors in  
 9 accessing health care, transportation, supportive  
 10 services, and assistance with daily activities, where  
 11 or close to where seniors live;

12 (2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improve-  
 13 ments in existing programs and services adminis-  
 14 tered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and  
 15 local agencies to assist seniors in meeting their hous-  
 16 ing and service needs and make any recommenda-  
 17 tions about how agencies can better work to house  
 18 and serve seniors; and

19 (3) recommend ways—

20 (A) to reduce duplication among programs  
 21 and services by Federal agencies that assist  
 22 seniors in meeting their housing and service  
 23 needs;

24 (B) to ensure collaboration among and  
 25 within agencies in the provision and availability



1 of programs and services so that seniors are  
2 able to easily access needed programs and serv-  
3 ices;

4 (C) to work with States to better provide  
5 housing and services to seniors by—

6 (i) holding individual meetings with  
7 State representatives;

8 (ii) providing ongoing technical assist-  
9 ance to States in better meeting the needs  
10 of seniors; and

11 (iii) working with States to designate  
12 State liaisons to the Council;

13 (D) to identify best practices for programs  
14 and services that assist seniors in meeting their  
15 housing and service needs, including model—

16 (i) programs linking housing and serv-  
17 ices;

18 (ii) financing products offered by gov-  
19 ernment, quasi-government, and private  
20 sector entities;

21 (iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory  
22 practices; and

23 (iv) innovations in technology applica-  
24 tions that give seniors access to informa-  
25 tion on available services;

1           (E) to collect and disseminate information  
 2           about seniors and the programs and services  
 3           available to them to ensure that seniors can ac-  
 4           cess comprehensive information;

5           (F) to hold biannual meetings with stake-  
 6           holders and other interested parties (or to hold  
 7           open Council meetings) to receive input and  
 8           ideas about how to best meet the housing and  
 9           service needs of seniors;

10          (G) to maintain an updated website of  
 11          policies, meetings, best practices, programs,  
 12          services, and any other helpful information to  
 13          keep people informed of the Council's activities;  
 14          and

15          (H) to work with the Federal Interagency  
 16          Forum on Aging Statistics, the Census Bureau,  
 17          and member agencies to collect and maintain  
 18          data relating to the housing and service needs  
 19          of seniors so that all data can be accessed in  
 20          one place and to identify and address unmet  
 21          data needs.

22       (b) REPORTS.—

23           (1) BY MEMBERS.—Each year, the head of each  
 24          agency that is a member of the Council shall prepare

1 and transmit to the Council a report that de-  
2 scribes—

3 (A) each program and service administered  
4 by the agency that serves seniors and the num-  
5 ber of seniors served by each program or serv-  
6 ice; the resources available in each; as well as  
7 a breakdown of where each program and service  
8 can be accessed;

9 (B) the barriers and impediments, includ-  
10 ing statutory or regulatory, to the access and  
11 use of such programs and services by seniors;

12 (C) the efforts made by each agency to in-  
13 crease opportunities for seniors to find and af-  
14 ford housing that meet their needs; including  
15 how the agency is working with other agencies  
16 to better coordinate programs and services; and

17 (D) any new data collected by each agency  
18 relating to the housing and service needs of  
19 seniors.

20 (2) BY THE COUNCIL.—Each year, the Council  
21 shall prepare and transmit to the President, the  
22 Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban  
23 Affairs, the Senate Committee on Health, Edu-  
24 cation, Labor, and Pensions, the House Financial

1 Services Committee, and the House Committee on  
2 Education and the Workforce a report that—

3 (A) summarizes the reports required in  
4 paragraph (1);

5 (B) utilizes recent data to assess the na-  
6 ture of the problems faced by seniors in meet-  
7 ing their unique housing and service needs;

8 (C) provides a comprehensive and detailed  
9 description of the programs and services of the  
10 Federal Government in meeting the needs and  
11 problems described in subparagraph (B);

12 (D) describes the activities and accomplish-  
13 ments of the Council in working with Federal,  
14 State, and local governments, and private orga-  
15 nizations in coordinating programs and services  
16 to meet the needs described in subparagraph  
17 (B) and the resources available to meet those  
18 needs;

19 (E) assesses the level of Federal assistance  
20 required to meet the needs described in sub-  
21 paragraph (B); and

22 (F) makes recommendations for appro-  
23 priate legislative and administrative actions to  
24 meet the needs described in subparagraph (B)

1           and for coordinating programs and services de-  
2           signed to meet those needs.

3 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL..**

4       (a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hear-  
5       ings; sit and act at such times and places; take such testi-  
6       mony; and receive such evidence as the Council considers  
7       advisable to carry out the purposes of this Act.

8       (b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—Agencies which  
9       are members of the Council shall provide all requested in-  
10      formation and data to the Council as requested.

11      (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Council may use the  
12      United States mails in the same manner and under the  
13      same conditions as other departments and agencies of the  
14      Federal Government.

15      (d) GIFTS.—The Council may accept, use, and dis-  
16      pose of gifts or donations of services or property.

17 **SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS..**

18      (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—All members of  
19      the Council who are officers or employees of the United  
20      States shall serve without compensation in addition to that  
21      received for their services as officers or employees of the  
22      United States.

23      (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Coun-  
24      cil shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in  
25      lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of

1 agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
 2 United States Code, while away from their homes or reg-  
 3 ular places of business in the performance of services for  
 4 the Council.

5 (c) STAFF.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall, without  
 7 regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint  
 8 and terminate an Executive Director and such other  
 9 additional personnel as may be necessary to enable  
 10 the Council to perform its duties.

11 (2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Council shall  
 12 appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting.  
 13 The Executive Director shall be compensated at a  
 14 rate not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level  
 15 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
 16 title 5, United States Code.

17 (3) COMPENSATION.—With the approval of the  
 18 Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix  
 19 the compensation of such additional personnel as  
 20 necessary to carry out the duties of the Council. The  
 21 rate of compensation may be set without regard to  
 22 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of  
 23 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating  
 24 to classification of positions and General Schedule  
 25 pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not ex-

1        exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive  
2        Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

3        (d) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—In  
4        carrying out its objectives, the Council may procure tem-  
5        porary and intermittent services of consultants and ex-  
6        perts under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code,  
7        at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily  
8        equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for  
9        level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of  
10       such title.

11       (e) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon  
12       request of the Council, any Federal Government employee  
13       may be detailed to the Council without reimbursement,  
14       and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of  
15       civil service status or privilege.

16       (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of  
17       Housing Urban Development and the Secretary of Health  
18       and Human Services shall provide the Council with such  
19       administrative and supportive services as are necessary to  
20       ensure that the Council can carry out its functions.

21       **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS..**

22       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
23       this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through  
24       2010.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       *This Act may be cited as the “Meeting the Housing*  
 3 *and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005”.*

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       *Congress finds the following:*

6           (1) *The senior population (persons 65 or older)*  
 7 *in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to*  
 8 *increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly*  
 9 *40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically in-*  
 10 *crease to over 50,000,000 by 2020.*

11          (2) *By 2020, the population of “older” seniors,*  
 12 *those over age 85, is expected to double to 7,000,000,*  
 13 *and then double again to 14,000,000 by 2040.*

14          (3) *As the senior population increases, so does*  
 15 *the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and*  
 16 *suitable housing that meets their unique needs.*

17          (4) *Due to the health care, transportation, and*  
 18 *service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable*  
 19 *and affordable housing opportunities differ signifi-*  
 20 *cantly from the housing needs of other families.*

21          (5) *Seniors need access to a wide array of hous-*  
 22 *ing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-*  
 23 *home care, supportive or service-enriched housing,*  
 24 *and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors*  
 25 *to age in place and to avoid premature placement in*  
 26 *institutional settings.*



1           (6) While there are many programs in place to  
 2       assist seniors in finding and affording suitable hous-  
 3       ing and accessing needed services, these programs are  
 4       fragmented and spread across many agencies, making  
 5       it difficult for seniors to access assistance or to receive  
 6       comprehensive information.

7           (7) Better coordination among Federal agencies  
 8       is needed, as is better coordination at State and local  
 9       levels, to ensure that seniors can access government  
 10      activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effec-  
 11      tive and efficient manner.

12          (8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statistics  
 13      on key characteristics of seniors, including conditions,  
 14      behaviors, and needs, are required to accurately iden-  
 15      tify the housing and service needs of seniors.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17       *In this Act:*

18          (1) *HOUSING.*—The term “housing” means any  
 19      form of residence, including rental housing, home-  
 20      ownership, assisted living, group home, supportive  
 21      housing arrangement, nursing facility, or any other  
 22      physical location where a person can live.

23          (2) *SERVICE.*—The term “service” includes  
 24      transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal,  
 25      personal care and chore services, assistance with daily

(4) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors.

17 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON MEETING THE HOUSING**  
18 **AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS.**

23 (b) *OBJECTIVES.*—*The objectives of the Council are as*  
24 *follows:*

1           (1) *To promote coordination and collaboration*  
2           *among the Federal departments and agencies involved*  
3           *with housing, health care, and service needs of seniors*  
4           *in order to better meet the needs of senior citizens.*

5           (2) *To identify the unique housing and service*  
6           *needs faced by seniors around the country and to rec-*  
7           *ommend ways that the Federal Government, States,*  
8           *State and local governments, and others can better*  
9           *meet those needs, including how to ensure that seniors*  
10          *can find and afford housing that allows them to ac-*  
11          *cess health care, transportation, nursing assistance,*  
12          *and assistance with daily activities where they live or*  
13          *in their communities.*

14          (3) *To facilitate the aging in place of seniors, by*  
15          *identifying and making available information related*  
16          *to the programs and services necessary to enable sen-*  
17          *iors to remain in their homes as they age.*

18          (4) *To improve coordination among the housing*  
19          *and service related programs and services of Federal*  
20          *agencies for seniors and to make recommendations*  
21          *about needed changes with an emphasis on—*

22                  (A) *maximizing the impact of existing pro-*  
23                  *grams and services;*

1                   (B) *reducing or eliminating areas of over-*  
 2                   *lap and duplication in the provision and acces-*  
 3                   *sibility of such programs and services; and*

4                   (C) *making access to programs and services*  
 5                   *easier for seniors around the country.*

6                   (5) *To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of*  
 7                   *existing housing and service related programs and*  
 8                   *services which serve seniors.*

9                   (6) *To establish an ongoing system of coordina-*  
 10                  *tion among and within such agencies or organiza-*  
 11                  *tions so that the housing and service needs of seniors*  
 12                  *are met in a more efficient manner.*

13                  (c) *MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of*  
 14                  *the following:*

15                  (1) *The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-*  
 16                  *opment.*

17                  (2) *The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-*  
 18                  *ices.*

19                  (3) *The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee of*  
 20                  *the Secretary.*

21                  (4) *The Secretary of Transportation or a des-*  
 22                  *ignee of the Secretary.*

23                  (5) *The Secretary of Labor or a designee of the*  
 24                  *Secretary.*

1           (6) *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a des-*  
 2           *ignee of the Secretary.*

3           (7) *The Secretary of the Treasury or a designee*  
 4           *of the Secretary.*

5           (8) *The Commissioner of the Social Security Ad-*  
 6           *ministration or a designee of the Commissioner.*

7           (9) *The Administrator of the Centers for Medi-*  
 8           *care and Medicaid Services or a designee of the Ad-*  
 9           *ministrator.*

10          (10) *The Administrator of the Administration on*  
 11          *Aging or a designee of the Administrator.*

12          (11) *The head (or designee) of any other Federal*  
 13          *agency as the Council considers appropriate.*

14          (12)(A) *3 additional members, as appointed by*  
 15          *the President to serve terms not to exceed 4 years, of*  
 16          *whom—*

17                 (i) *one shall be a Governor of a State;*

18                 (ii) *one shall be a Mayor of a political sub-*  
 19                 *division of a State;*

20                 (iii) *one shall be a county, town, township,*  
 21                 *parish, village, hamlet, or other general purpose*  
 22                 *local official of a political subdivision of a State.*

23          (B) *Of the members appointed by the President*  
 24          *under subparagraph (A)—*

1                   (i) no more than 2 members may be affili-  
 2                   ated with the same political party; and

3                   (ii) none shall be considered a Federal em-  
 4                   ployee.

5           (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Council  
 6 shall alternate between the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
 7 Development and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
 8 ices every 2 years.

9           (e) VICE CHAIR.—Every 2 years, the Council shall  
 10 elect a Vice Chair from among its members.

11          (f) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of  
 12 its Chairperson or a majority of its members at any time,  
 13 and no less often than quarterly. The Council shall hold  
 14 meetings with stakeholders and other interested parties at  
 15 least twice a year, so that the opinions of such parties can  
 16 be taken into account and so that outside groups can learn  
 17 of the Council's activities and plans.

18 **SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

19          (a) RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out its objec-  
 20 tives, the Council shall—

21               (1) review all Federal programs and services  
 22               that assist seniors in finding, affording, and rehabili-  
 23               tating housing, including those that assist seniors in  
 24               accessing health care, transportation, supportive serv-

1        *ices, and assistance with daily activities, where or*  
 2        *close to where seniors live;*

3            *(2) monitor, evaluate, and recommend improve-*  
 4        *ments in existing programs and services adminis-*  
 5        *tered, funded, or financed by Federal, State, and local*  
 6        *agencies to assist seniors in meeting their housing*  
 7        *and service needs and make any recommendations*  
 8        *about how agencies can better work to house and serve*  
 9        *seniors; and*

10          *(3) recommend ways to—*

11            *(A) reduce duplication among programs*  
 12        *and services by Federal agencies that assist sen-*  
 13        *iors in meeting their housing and service needs;*

14            *(B) ensure collaboration among and within*  
 15        *agencies in the provision and availability of pro-*  
 16        *grams and services so that seniors are able to*  
 17        *easily access needed programs and services;*

18            *(C) work with States to better provide hous-*  
 19        *ing and services to seniors by—*

20            *(i) holding individual meetings with*  
 21        *State representatives;*

22            *(ii) providing ongoing technical assist-*  
 23        *ance to States in better meeting the needs of*  
 24        *seniors; and*

1                   (iii) working with States to designate  
2                   State liaisons to the Council;

3                   (D) identify best practices for programs and  
4                   services that assist seniors in meeting their hous-  
5                   ing and service needs, including model—

6                   (i) programs linking housing and serv-  
7                   ices;

8                   (ii) financing products offered by gov-  
9                   ernment, quasi-government, and private sec-  
10                  tor entities;

11                  (iii) land use, zoning, and regulatory  
12                  practices; and

13                  (iv) innovations in technology applica-  
14                  tions that give seniors access to information  
15                  on available services or that help in pro-  
16                  viding services to seniors;

17                  (E) collect and disseminate information  
18                  about seniors and the programs and services  
19                  available to them to ensure that seniors can ac-  
20                  cess comprehensive information;

21                  (F) hold biannual meetings with stake-  
22                  holders and other interested parties (or to hold  
23                  open Council meetings) to receive input and  
24                  ideas about how to best meet the housing and  
25                  service needs of seniors;



1           (G) maintain an updated website of poli-  
 2           cies, meetings, best practices, programs, services,  
 3           and any other helpful information to keep people  
 4           informed of the Council's activities; and

5           (H) work with the Federal Interagency  
 6           Forum on Aging Statistics, the Census Bureau,  
 7           and member agencies to collect and maintain  
 8           data relating to the housing and service needs of  
 9           seniors so that all data can be accessed in one  
 10          place and to identify and address unmet data  
 11          needs.

12          (b) *REPORTS.*—

13           (1) *BY MEMBERS.*—Each year, the head of each  
 14          agency who is a member of the Council shall prepare  
 15          and transmit to the Council a report that describes—

16           (A) each program and service administered  
 17          by the agency that serves a substantial number  
 18          of seniors and the number of seniors served by  
 19          each program or service, the resources available  
 20          in each, as well as a breakdown of where each  
 21          program and service can be accessed;

22           (B) the barriers and impediments, includ-  
 23          ing statutory or regulatory, to the access and use  
 24          of such programs and services by seniors;

1           (C) the efforts made by each agency to in-  
 2           crease opportunities for seniors to find and af-  
 3           ford housing that meet their needs, including  
 4           how the agency is working with other agencies to  
 5           better coordinate programs and services; and

6           (D) any new data collected by each agency  
 7           relating to the housing and service needs of sen-  
 8           iors.

9           (2) *BY THE COUNCIL.*—Each year, the Council  
 10          shall prepare and transmit to the President, the Com-  
 11          mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of  
 12          the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education,  
 13          Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Special Com-  
 14          mittee on Aging of the Senate, the Financial Services  
 15          Committee of the House of Representatives, the Com-  
 16          mittee on Education and the Workforce of the House  
 17          of Representatives, a report that—

18               (A) summarizes the reports required in  
 19               paragraph (1);

20               (B) utilizes recent data to assess the nature  
 21               of the problems faced by seniors in meeting their  
 22               unique housing and service needs;

23               (C) provides a comprehensive and detailed  
 24               description of the programs and services of the

1           *Federal Government in meeting the needs and*  
 2           *problems described in subparagraph (B);*

3           *(D) describes the activities and accomplish-*  
 4           *ments of the Council in working with Federal,*  
 5           *State, and local governments, and private orga-*  
 6           *nizations in coordinating programs and services*  
 7           *to meet the needs described in subparagraph (B)*  
 8           *and the resources available to meet those needs;*

9           *(E) assesses the level of Federal assistance*  
 10          *required to meet the needs described in subpara-*  
 11          *graph (B); and*

12          *(F) makes recommendations for appropriate*  
 13          *legislative and administrative actions to meet*  
 14          *the needs described in subparagraph (B) and for*  
 15          *coordinating programs and services designed to*  
 16          *meet those needs.*

17   **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

18          *(a) HEARINGS.—The Council may hold such hearings,*  
 19          *sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony,*  
 20          *and receive such evidence as the Council considers advisable*  
 21          *to carry out the purposes of this Act.*

22          *(b) INFORMATION FROM AGENCIES.—Agencies which*  
 23          *are represented on the Council shall provide all requested*  
 24          *information and data to the Council as requested.*

1       (c) *POSTAL SERVICES.*—*The Council may use the*  
 2 *United States mails in the same manner and under the*  
 3 *same conditions as other departments and agencies of the*  
 4 *Federal Government.*

5       (d) *GIFTS.*—

6           (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Council may accept, use,*  
 7 *and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-*  
 8 *erty.*

9           (2) *REGULATIONS REQUIRED.*—*The Council*  
 10 *shall adopt internal regulations governing the receipt*  
 11 *of gifts or donations of services or property similar to*  
 12 *those described in part 2601 of title 5, Code of Fed-*  
 13 *eral Regulations.*

14 **SEC. 7. COUNCIL PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

15       (a) *COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.*—

16           (1) *NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—*A member of*  
 17 *the Council who is not an officer or employee of the*  
 18 *Federal Government shall serve without compensa-*  
 19 *tion.*

20           (2) *FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—*A member of the*  
 21 *Council who is an officer or employee of the United*  
 22 *States shall serve without compensation in addition*  
 23 *to the compensation received for services of the mem-*  
 24 *ber as an officer or employee of the Federal Govern-*  
 25 *ment.*

1       (b) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*The members of the Council*  
 2 *shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu*  
 3 *of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies*  
 4 *under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States*  
 5 *Code, while away from their homes or regular places of*  
 6 *business in the performance of services for the Council.*

7       (c) *STAFF.*—

8           (1) *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.*—*The Council shall*  
 9 *appoint an Executive Director at its initial meeting.*  
 10 *The Executive Director shall be compensated at a rate*  
 11 *not to exceed the rate of pay payable for level V of*  
 12 *the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5,*  
 13 *United States Code.*

14          (2) *COMPENSATION.*—*With the approval of the*  
 15 *Council, the Executive Director may appoint and fix*  
 16 *the compensation of such additional personnel as nec-*  
 17 *essary to carry out the duties of the Council. The rate*  
 18 *of compensation may be set without regard to the pro-*  
 19 *visions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of chapter 53*  
 20 *of title 5, United States Code, relating to classifica-*  
 21 *tion of positions and General Schedule pay rates, ex-*  
 22 *cept that the rate of pay may not exceed the rate pay-*  
 23 *able for level V of the Executive Schedule under sec-*  
 24 *tion 5316 of such title.*

1       (d) *TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.*—In  
 2       *carrying out its objectives, the Council may procure tem-*  
 3       *porary and intermittent services of consultants and experts*  
 4       *under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates*  
 5       *for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of*  
 6       *the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the*  
 7       *Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.*

8       (e) *DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.*—Upon re-  
 9       *quest of the Council, any Federal Government employee*  
 10      *may be detailed to the Council without reimbursement, and*  
 11      *such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil*  
 12      *service status or privilege.*

13      (f) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.*—The Secretary of  
 14      *Housing Urban Development and the Secretary of Health*  
 15      *and Human Services shall provide the Council with such*  
 16      *administrative (including office space), supportive services,*  
 17      *and technical supports as are necessary to ensure that the*  
 18      *Council can carry out its functions.*

19      **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20      *There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out*  
 21      *this Act, \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through*  
 22      *2010.*



Calendar No. 285

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST Session

**S. 705**

[Report No. 109-178]

**A BILL**

To establish the Interagency Council on Meeting  
the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, and  
for other purposes.

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Reported with an amendment